

of the Militia of Maryland. It contains many valuable suggestions, and is eminently worthy of your consideration. It is proper for me again to remind you, that the Legislature have failed, as yet, to pass any law for the enrolment of the militia, although expressly required to do so by the 9th Article, Sec. 1, of the Constitution. With the exception of the volunteer corps in the city of Baltimore, and a few Uniform companies in three or four counties, there is, in truth, no organized militia in the State. There are scarcely any "official returns" to the Adjutant General, and in the event of a call being made in a sudden emergency, upon the militia, to "repel invasion, suppress insurrection and enforce the execution of the laws," the State would be literally without men and without arms. The existing statutes requiring the Adjutant General to furnish arms when applied for, to all Volunteer and Uniform companies, has squandered a large amount of the public arms without any corresponding or adequate benefit to the State, and left the armories destitute of a sufficient number of arms for any public emergency.

On the occasion of my late interposition in Baltimore, I deemed it proper in the discharge of a high public duty, to apply to the Governor of Virginia, for a loan of two thousand muskets to arm the force which I contemplated calling out, for the preservation of the public peace in Baltimore, and the protection of her citizens in the exercise of their political rights. My position and the necessity of immediate action were fully appreciated. With a promptness, generosity and courtesy, characteristic of the distinguished Governor of that State, the necessary orders were immediately given for the transportation to this State, of the arms required. For this act of comity, the Governor of Virginia is entitled to the thanks of all who desire to see our laws faithfully executed, and the supremacy of constitutional authority, maintained. The exigency and necessity for such a call could only be properly judged of and determined by the Executive of Maryland, who assumed that duty with a full knowledge of its responsibility. A portion of the arms arrived in Baltimore, the rest were detained by my orders in Washington, and at the proper time returned to the Governor of Virginia.

CONTINGENT FUND.

I herewith transmit as required by the Constitution, a statement of the disbursements from the Executive Contingent Fund, for the last two years, and respectfully ask, that you will appoint a committee, to examine my vouchers for the expenditure of this fund, as well as for the expenditure of the sum of \$4,000 appropriated by the act of 1854, to repair and furnish the Government House.

In closing this communication already too much extended, I avail myself of this opportunity to express through you to my fellow-citizens of the State, my sincere acknowledgments of the hon-